

Notice of Allowability**Application No.**

09/985,709

Examiner

KAMAL B. DIVECHA

Applicant(s)

WILSON, RICHARD A.

Art Unit

2451

- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 6/22/09.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-39, 44, 45 and 53-60.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying Indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 8/5/09.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

/Hassan Phillips/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2451

Kamal Divecha
ArtUnit 2451

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with applicant representative Michael K. O'Neill on 5th August, 2009.

Please amend the application as follows:

In the claims:

Please amend the claims 55 and 56 as follows:

55. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:
a network interface for connection to a network for communicating over the network with a plurality of multifunction network devices, wherein each multifunction network device has function modules for controlling scanning and printing capabilities of the multifunction network device as well as hardware resources used by the function modules to perform the scanning and printing capabilities, wherein said function modules include a function module for controlling the scanning capability and a function module for controlling the printing capability;
a storage unit for storing a plurality of function modules;
a detector which detects a reconfiguration event from at least one of the plurality of multifunction network devices based on a status of use of hardware resources in said one multifunction network device, wherein the reconfiguration event is triggered by an increase or a decrease in demand for hardware resources of said one multifunction network device;
~~instruction~~ means for sending a deletion command over the network via the network interface for instructing the deletion of the function module for controlling the scanning capability or the function module for controlling the printing capability to said one multifunction network device corresponding to the reconfiguration event, in case

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that the detected reconfiguration event is the event indicating a need to delete the function module for controlling the scanning capability or the function module for controlling the printing capability in said one multifunction network device in response to the increase of demand for the hardware resources, wherein said one multifunction network device operates itself without a scanning capability corresponding to the deleted function module for controlling the scanning capability or without a printing capability corresponding to the deleted function module for controlling the printing capability; and

~~sending~~ means for sending a requested function module stored in the storage unit over the network via the network interface to said one multifunction network device corresponding to the reconfiguration event, in case that the detected reconfiguration event is the event indicating a request for retrieval of the function module for controlling the scanning capability or the function module for controlling the printing capability in response to the decrease of demand for the hardware resources, followed by execution of the retrieved function module by said one multifunction network device so as to control a scanning or printing capability using the hardware resources,

wherein prior to execution of the retrieved function module, said one multifunction network device confirms whether the retrieved function module is or is not authenticated, and

wherein said one multifunction network device operates itself with a scanning capability corresponding to the retrieved function module for controlling the scanning capability or with a printing capability corresponding to the retrieved function module for controlling the printing capability.

56. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for controlling a multifunction network device, wherein the multifunction network device includes a network interface for communication on the network, said multifunction network device further having function modules for controlling scanning and printing capabilities of said multifunction network device, wherein said function modules include a function module for controlling the scanning capability and a function module for controlling the printing capability, and said multifunction network device further having a plurality of hardware resources including a storage memory for storing a plurality of function modules which includes the function module for controlling the scanning capability and the function module for controlling the printing capability, a program memory to be used by the function modules, and a processor for executing the function modules using the hardware resources so as to control the scanning and printing capabilities, said apparatus comprising:

~~determining~~ means for determining whether the hardware resources need to be reallocated based on a status of use of the hardware resources by the plurality of function modules;

~~first reconfiguring~~ means for deleting the function module for controlling the scanning capability or the function module for controlling the printing capability, and for sending the deleted function module over the network via the network interface so as to secure the hardware resources in said multifunction network device, wherein the deleted function module is sent over the network to an information processing apparatus on the network, responsive to a case when the ~~determining~~ means for determining

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determines that the hardware resources need to be reallocated, wherein said multifunction network device operates itself without a scanning capability corresponding to the deleted function module for controlling the scanning capability or without a printing capability corresponding to the deleted function module for controlling the printing capability; ~~and second reconfiguring~~ means for reconfiguring the multifunction network device by retrieving the deleted function module for the scanning capability or the deleted function module for the printing capability from the information processing apparatus over the network via the network interface in response to a status of use of the hardware resources, and for executing the retrieved function module by said multifunction network device so as to control a scanning or printing capability using the hardware ~~resources; resources; and~~ a processor constructed to implement functionality of said means for determining, said means for deleting, and said means for reconfiguring;

wherein prior to execution of the retrieved function module, said multifunction network device confirms whether the retrieved function module is or is not authenticated, and

wherein said multifunction network device operates itself with a scanning capability corresponding to the retrieved function module for controlling the scanning capability or with a printing capability corresponding to the retrieved function module for controlling the printing capability.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KAMAL B. DIVECHA whose telephone number is (571)272-5863. The examiner can normally be reached on IFP (M-F: 10-6.30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, JOHN FOLLANSBEE can be reached on 571-272-3964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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/Hassan Phillips/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2451